

February 18, 2021

The Honorable Gary A. Winfield & the Honorable Steven J. Stafstrom  
Co-Chairs, Joint Committee on Judiciary  
Connecticut General Assembly  
210 Capitol Avenue  
Hartford, CT 06106

Dear Co-Chairs Winfield & Stafstrom and Members of the Joint Committee on Judiciary,

My name is Anastasia Martineau (she/her/hers), and I am a lifelong resident of Connecticut as well as a volunteer at COLAGE, an organization for children of LGBTQ+ families. I am proud to testify in support of **Raised Bill 6321**. The Connecticut Parentage Act (CPA) will update the state's parentage law to promote the security of all children. Currently, Connecticut parentage law is outdated and unconstitutional, and it leaves many children without the protection of a legal relationship with their parents. The CPA will correct harmful gaps in current Connecticut law, and help to align the law to the realities of modern families. Most importantly, the CPA will protect families like mine, and give us the security we deserve.

My sister and I were raised in Connecticut by two moms. Living in Connecticut with them has always been a source of pride for me. From my first time going to Hartford Pride to celebrating the passage of Paid Family Medical Leave with an inclusive definition of family, having queer parents was that much easier knowing that whatever happened, we would be safe, especially during a time where our rights are so often called into question on the national scale. However, this is not the case when it comes to parentage.

So many queer Connecticut families like mine struggle with health insurance, making medical decisions, and access to other basic benefits because of the lack of protections around who can be a legal parent. No child should have to live with the burden of knowing that one of their parents could be seen as less than the other in the eyes of the law. Not only can this be painful, but it can be developmentally harmful for a child to know that their parent may not be there for them when they are needed, not for a lack of caring but a lack of legal protection. As a volunteer at COLAGE, I often speak with families who are worried about their parental rights, as well as children who have grown up having to take on issues that they may not even fully understand. Here in Connecticut this is an all too common anxiety, especially since we have the second highest rate of assisted reproduction in the country.

I myself worry about my own future as a queer woman who one day hopes to have children with another woman through assisted reproduction. I can't say for sure that marriage is in my future, but I can say that I hope to live in a place where my partner and I can cultivate an environment of support for our children, both financially and legally, regardless of marital status. But this cannot happen unless I can be sure that my future children will be my own. I strongly urge the Committee and Connecticut lawmakers to pass the Connecticut Parentage Act, and affirm their commitment to LGBTQ+ parents and children in our state.

Thank you for your time,

Anastasia Martineau  
45 Clifford St, Willimantic, CT, 06226